

22
RNR 87

NIGHTLEAD KISSINGER: (SCHEDULED)

BY VINCENT BUIST

MOSCOW, OCT. 20, REUTER -- SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER
ARRIVED HERE TONIGHT FOR URGENT TOP-LEVEL TALKS WITH THE KREMLIN,
APPARENTLY AIMED AT ACHIEVING BOTH A MIDDLE EAST CEASEFIRE AND A
ROAD OUTLINE FOR A LASTING POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN THAT TROUBLED
AREA.

KISSINGER WAS GREETED AT THE AIRPORT BY SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER
ANDREI GROMYKO AND A GROUP OF RUSSIAN DIPLOMATS WHO WHISKED HIM
AWAY TO THE SOVIET V.I.P. RESIDENCE ON THE LENIN HILLS OVERLOOKING
THE CAPITAL.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE DECLINED COMMENT ON HIS UPCOMING
NEGOTIATIONS BUT WHEN ASKED IF HE WOULD STAY IN MOSCOW FOR FOUR
DAYS--AS PREDICTED BY ONE AMERICAN SOURCE -- HE REPLIED, "I DON'T
THINK SO."

THE SUPERPOWER TALKS IN MOSCOW, LIKELY TO START ALMOST IMMEDIA-
TELY, WILL BE THE FIRST DIRECT MOVE BY WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW
TO DEVISE AN ACCEPTABLE AND EQUITABLE PLAN TO END THE MIDDLE
EAST CRISIS SINCE THE PRESENT CONFLICT BEGAN.

ALTHOUGH MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON SUPPORT OPPOSITE SIDES IN THE
DESERT WAR AND CANNOT PERMIT THEIR ALLIES TO BE HUMILIATED OR
DESTROYED, THEY ARE BOTH EVEN MORE IN FAVOR OF MAINTAINING EAST-
WEST DETENTE.

THE KREMLIN LEADERSHIP HAS MADE EAST-WEST DETENTE ITS NUMBER
ONE PRIORITY AND THE INVITATION TO KISSINGER AND HIS AIDES TO
VISIT MOSCOW IS THE BEST INDICATION SO FAR THAT THIS REMAINS THE
FIRST SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY CONSIDERATION.

SOVIET PREMIER ALEXEI KOSYGIN WAS OFFICIALLY REPORTED LAST
NIGHT TO HAVE RETURNED FROM A VISIT TO CAIRO WHERE HE SPENT FOUR
DAYS IN TALKS WITH THE ARAB LEADERSHIP AND PROPOSED A SOVIET PEACE
PLAN.

IN MOSCOW FEW DETAILS OF KISSINGER'S VISIT WERE AVAILABLE.
THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS DEPARTMENT DID NOT ANSWER THE
TELEPHONE TO PRESS INQUIRIES AND U.S. OFFICIALS SAID THEY WERE
STILL WAITING TO KNOW WHERE THE TALKS WOULD TAKE PLACE.

MOSCOW OBSERVERS SAID THE SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF THE U.S.
NEGOTIATING GROUP POINTED TO CLOSE AND DETAILED TALKS IN MOSCOW
LASTING SOME TIME.

THE GROUP INCLUDES SUCH VETERAN MIDDLE EAST CRISIS NEGOTIATORS
AS JOSEPH SISCO, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NEAR-EASTERN
AFFAIRS, HELMUT SONNENFELDT, SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NATIONAL
SECURITY COUNCIL, AND WINSON LORD, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND
CO-ORDINATION AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

BUT PROSPECTS FOR QUICK FINAL SOLUTIONS TO THE MIDDLE EAST
CRISIS, WHICH HAS DEFIED WORLD DIPLOMACY FOR A QUARTER OF A CENTURY,
SEEMED HIGHLY UNLIKELY, MOSCOW OBSERVERS SAID.
MORE JW/AC 1405

SCOWCRAFT
L.L.

PRESS SPECULATION ON HAK TRIP
-SUGGEST HAK MAY LEAVE LAISON
GROUP IN MOSCOW TO WORK OUT
PROPOSAL.

RNR 89

MIDEAST -- NIGHTLEAD KISSINGER 3 MOSCOW

IT SEEMED POSSIBLE THAT KISSINGER MIGHT FLY BACK TO WASHINGTON LEAVING A LIAISON GROUP IN MOSCOW TO CONTINUE WORKING ON DETAILS OF A SETTLEMENT.

THE MAIN INGREDIENTS OF THE COMING ROUND OF PACE TALKS WERE A SOVIET PLAN DISCUSSED WITH THE ARABS, AN AMERICAN OUTLINE ALREADY PRESUMABLY COMMUNICATED TO THE ISRAELIS AND MOUNTING BLOODY LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES IN SOME OF THE BIGGEST TANK ENGAGEMENTS THE WORLD HAS EVEN SEEN.

ONE MAJOR PROBLEM IS THAT NEITHER THE UNITED STATES NOR THE SOVIET UNION CAN BE SURE OF ARAB-ISRAELI COMPLIANCE WITH AN AGREED BIG-POWER SOLUTION.

BUT A MAJOR SOURCE OF COMFORT HAS BEEN THE FACT THAT NEITHER OF THE SUPERPOWERS HAS SHOWN ANY WISH TO SEE THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS ESCALATE.

ON THE EVE OF THE MOSCOW PEACE TALKS PRESIDENT NIXON MOVED TO ESTABLISH A FIRMER BARGAINING BASIS BY ASKING CONGRESS TO APPROVE ANOTHER CONSIGNMENT OF WAR MATERIAL TO ISRAEL COSTING AROUND TWO BILLION DOLLARS.

SOVIET MILITARY AID TO THE ARAB ARMIES HAS BEEN ENORMOUS AND COSTLY AND HAS INCLUDED NEW AND SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS WHICH HAVE MAULED ISRAELI GROUND AND AIR UNITS.

SOME PRESS REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON HAVE SAID THE UNITED STATES WOULD PLEAD FOR UNEQUIVOCAL ARAB ACCEPTANCE OF THE PERMANENCY OF AN ISRAELI STATE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, NEW ISRAELI FRONTIERS THAT WOULD MAKE HER PRESENCE EMOTIONALLY AND POLITICALLY TOLERABLE TO SURROUNDING ARABS, AND SOME KIND OF AUTONOMOUS PALESTINIAN STATE OR ENCLAVE FOR REFUGEES DRIVEN OUT OF PRESENT-DAY ISRAEL WHEN THE STATE WAS FOUNDED IN 1948.

THE REPORTS SAID THE SOVIET UNION WANTED HER TROOPS TO JOIN AMERICAN, ISRAELI AND OTHER UNITS IN ENFORCING THE TRUCE OR FINAL PEACE SETTLEMENT.

SIMILARLY, WASHINGTON ENVISAGED THE REOPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL WITH GUARANTEES THAT ISRAELI SHIPPING WILL BE ABLE TO USE

THIS WATERWAY AS WELL AS THE GULF OF AKABA.

THIS WOULD PRESUMABLY INVOLVE THE SHELIVING OF WHAT HAS SO FAR BEEN A PRIME ISRAELI PRINCIPLE -- THAT THERE SHOULD BE DIRECT NEGOTIATING BETWEEN ARAB AND ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVES TO ACHIEVE A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT.

BUT THE EXHAUSTION OF WAR LOSSES MIGHT MEAN THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD COMPROMISE, OBSERVERS SAID.

FEW RELIABLE CLUES HAVE SO FAR EMERGED IN MOSCOW ABOUT A SOVIET PEACE PLAN ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS INDISPUTABLE THAT THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN WORKING FOR AN END TO THE FIGHTING SINCE THE WAR BEGAN.

APART FROM KOSYGIN'S PEACE MISSION TO CAIRO THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS OF TOP-LEVEL SOVIET VISITS TO DAMASCUS TO TALK TO THE SYRIANS.

NEVERTHELESS, THE FLOW OF SOVIET MILITARY SUPPLIES TO THE ARAB ARMIES HAS BEEN STEPPED UP, ACCORDING TO WASHINGTON REPORTS WHICH HAVE BEEN DENIED HERE.

THE SOVIET UNION IS BATTLING CHINA TO ASSERT HER OWN ROLE AS THE PRINCIPAL BACKER OF ARAB AND THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. THE KREMLIN THEREFORE CANNOT PERMIT ANY MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT WHICH CASTS DOUBT ON HER CREDIBILITY AS SUPPORTER AND SUPPLIER OF SUCH STATES.

REUTER JW